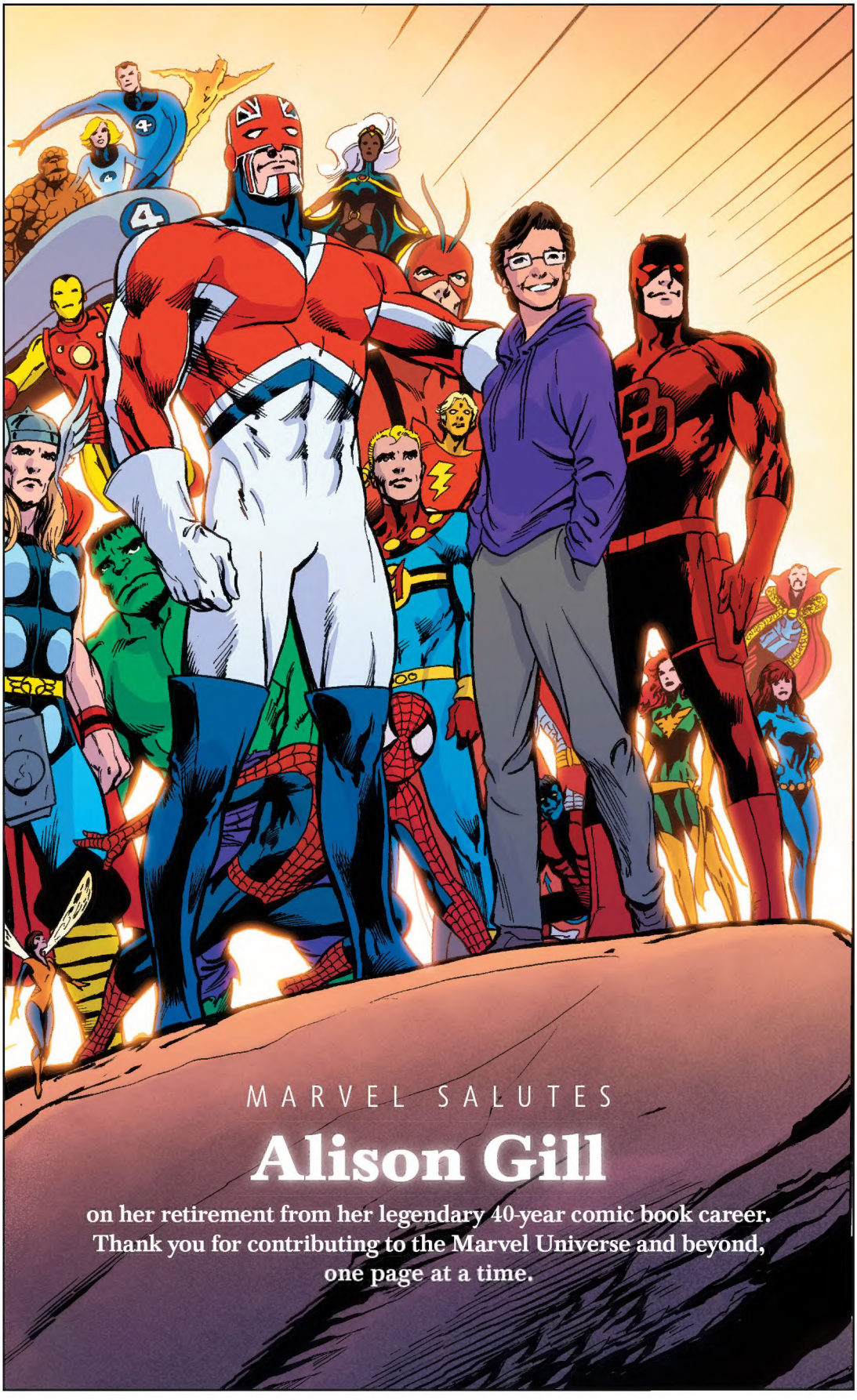
MARVEL
8
LGY#220
EWING
CHATER
ALLEN
YEUNG
ABURTOV
BLACK PANTHER
THE X-MEN'S MONET DEMANDS AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING!


MARVEL SALUTES
Alison Gill
on her retirement from her legendary 40-year comic book career.
Thank you for contributing to the Marvel Universe and beyond,
one page at a time.

WAKANDA RECENTLY TRANSITIONED FROM A MONARCHY TO A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY. IN THE UNREST THAT FOLLOWED, THE PRIME MINISTER EXILED T'CHALLA TO BRING PEACE TO WAKANDA. BUT EVEN IF HE IS NO LONGER KING, T'CHALLA WILL ALWAYS BE THE BLACK PANTHER. AND THE BLACK PANTHER WILL ALWAYS SERVE WAKANDA.

POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS ALL OVER BIRNIN T'CHAKA HAVE DISAPPEARED. THEIR COMMON ENEMY IS ONE MAN: BABA NKISU, HEAD OF THE NKISU CRIME FAMILY. BUT WHEN BLACK PANTHER WENT TO CONFRONT BABA NKISU, THE DARK SPIRIT KIVU'MA—A.K.A. THE GREY WOLF—HAD ALREADY ELIMINATED HIM, AND NKISU'S DAUGHTER, ALIINYA, TOOK OVER THE FAMILY. DISGUISED AS IZE THE DISHWASHER, T'CHALLA BEGAN WORKING FOR THE NKISUS IN ORDER TO GATHER INTEL, WHICH LED HIM AND THE THIEF BEISA TO THE WAKANDAN VACATION HOME OF CARTIER ST. CROIX, ONE OF NKISU'S ALLIES. WAITING FOR THEM THERE WAS CARTIER'S DAUGHTER, MONET—THE POWERFUL MUTANT KNOWN AS M—WANTING TO KNOW WHO DARED BREAK INTO HER FAMILY'S HOME...

BLACK PANTHER

REIGN AT DUSK PART 8

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BLACK PANTHER CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

MS. ST. CROIX. I MEANT NO *DISRESPECT* IN YOUR FATHER'S HOME. I AM HERE ON *URGENT* BUSINESS.
BUT I MUST CONFESS THAT I AM *SURPRISED* TO SEE YOU. AREN'T MUTANTS GLOBAL FUGITIVES? MEANT TO BE IMPRISONED ON SIGHT?*
*SEE FALL OF X.
CERTAINLY. I WAS ALERTED THAT ONE OF THE PSIONIC BARRIERS I HAVE PLACED UPON ALL OF MY FAMILY'S PROPERTIES HAD BEEN BREACHED, SO I CAME STRAIGHTAWAY. I AM *NOT* SUPPOSED TO *BE* HERE.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...

...YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR. AND YOU'RE TRESPASSING!

I AM THE BLACK PANTHER. NO STEP I TAKE ON *WAKANDAN LAND* CAN EVER BE *TRESPASS.*
THE *DISGRACED KING* EXILED, AND WAKANDA HAS GONE TO SEED. CHARLATANS PRETENDING TO BE THE--
MS. ST. CROIX, PLEASE. *STOP* THIS NONSENSE AND WE CAN *TALK.* I BELIEVE WE WANT THE SAME *THING.*

THIS IS STILL MY HOUSE.
THIS IS STILL MY COUNTRY.
WE CAN END THIS, MONET! YIELD!
NEV-- ARRRGH!

MY SKIN... RED DIAMOND... HOW DID YOU...?
VIBRANIUM.
DO YOU YIELD?
THAT'S NOT IN MY NATURE.
URRRK!
NO ONE HAS TIME FOR YOUR NATURE, SIS.
SO HERE'S THE DEAL. HE'S THE REAL BLACK PANTHER. AND IF YOU KEEP FIGHTING, HE WILL KILL YOU.
AND IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION...I, FOR ONE, PREFER YOU ALIVE.
YIELD.

HM. SO HE IS.
I SEE. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MY FATHER. SO AM I.
WHAT...?
SHE'S A TELEPATH.
...AND TELEKINETIC.
FUN.
WHERE IS HE? KIDNAPPED? WORSE?
MY FAMILY'S BUSINESS IS MY CONCERN.
LET ME HELP YOU.
YOUR FATHER IS NOT THE ONLY ONE MISSING. TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW.
THAT'S NOT AN ALLIANCE THAT INTERESTS ME AT THE MOMENT. YOU HAVE NO SKIN IN THE GAME. FOR YOU, THIS IS SPORT. FOR ME, THIS IS FAMILY.
BUT... IF YOU CAN READ MINDS...
...YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT I'VE LOST SOMEONE TOO.

BIRNIN T'CHAKA. THE NKISU FAMILY COMPOUND.
NO! NO! HELP ME, DAUGHTER! DON'T LET HIM--!
HELP ME, ALIINYA! WHY WON'T YOU HELP?
NNNNNHHHH!
ALIINYA!!!

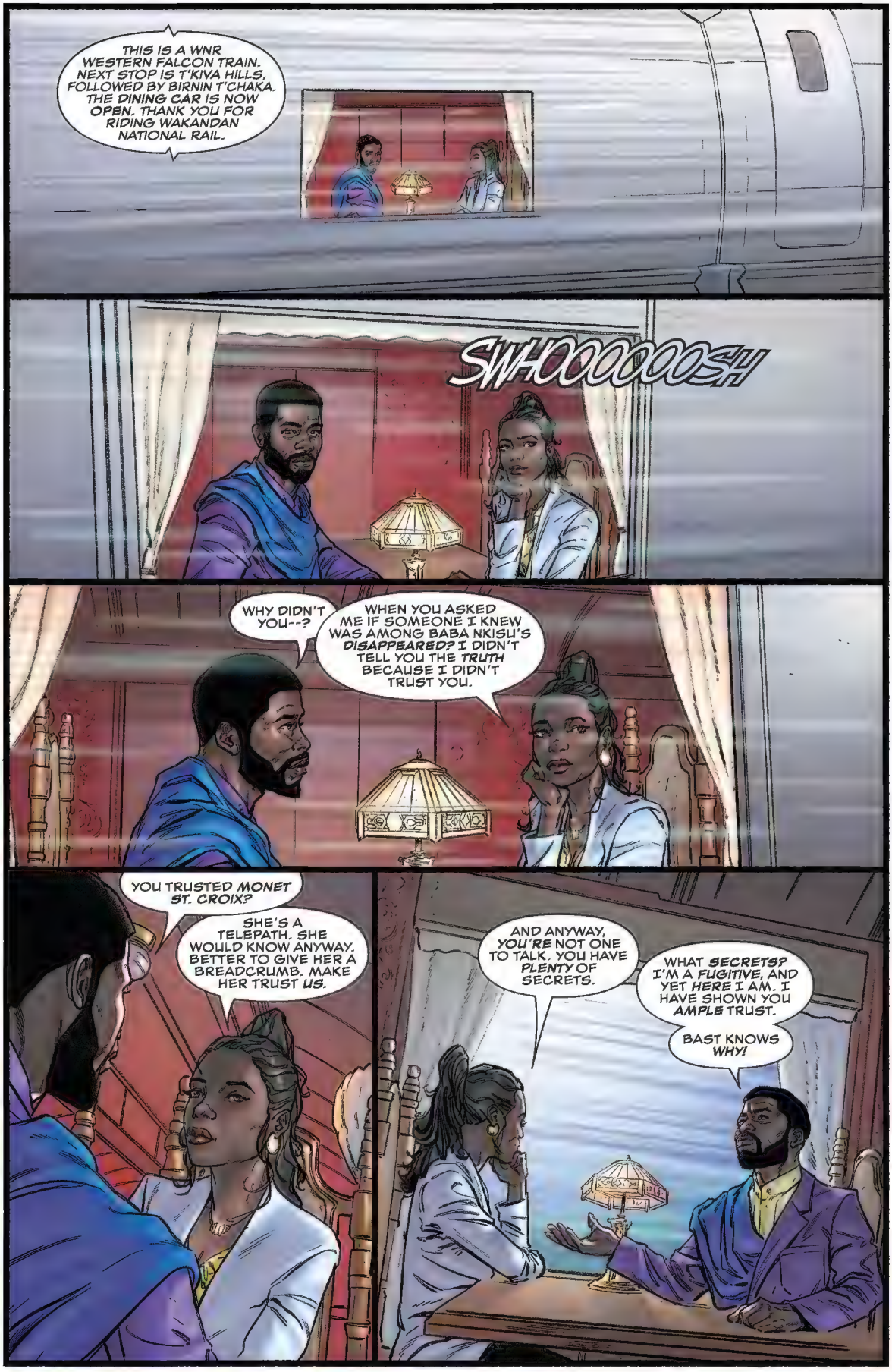
NO!

BACK AT THE ST. CROIX COUNTRY ESTATE...
I SEE... HMM. AND SHE WENT MISSING AT AROUND THE SAME TIME AS WELL.
SOMEONE YOU LOVE DEARLY.
SO THERE IT IS! YOU GET TO PROBE OUR DEEPEST, DARKEST SECRETS AT WILL.
NOW TELL US WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER. IT'S ONLY FAIR.
WHAT HAPPENED...
A GHOST SELLING A DREAM. MY FATHER TRYING TO RECLAIM SOME OF THE FORTUNE HE'S LOST THROUGH MY SIBLINGS AND OUR...ORDEALS. OPPORTUNISM. SPACE.
SPACE?
I'M GIVING YOU THE BROAD CONTOURS HERE.
YOU'RE SPEAKING IN RIDDLES AFTER WE WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SPARE YOUR LIFE.
IT'S INCREDIBLY SWEET THAT YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
COFFEE?

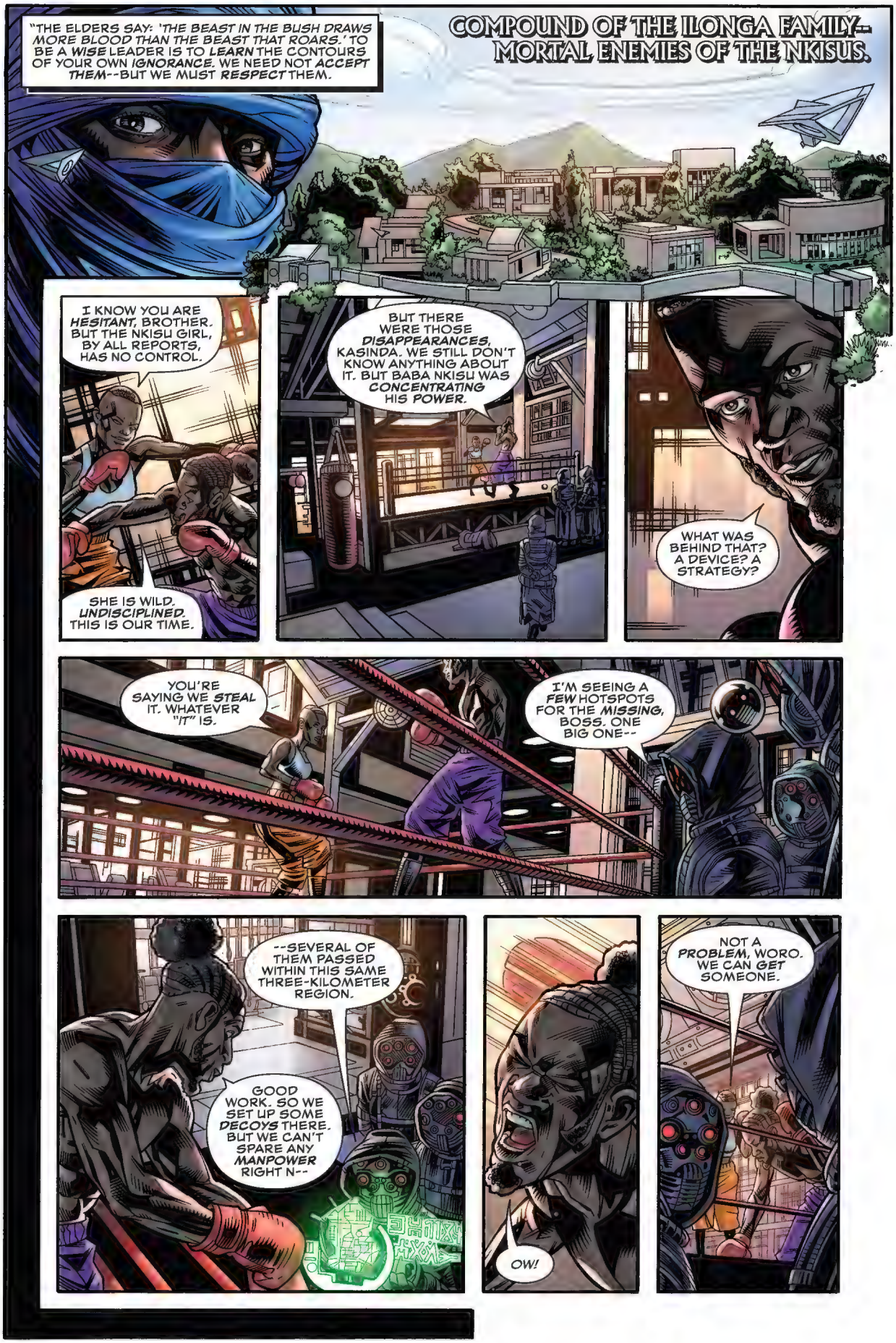
MY FATHER MADE A DEAL WITH *BABA NKISU*.
SHADY GUY TO DO *BUSINESS* WITH.
I COUNSELED AGAINST IT. HE *IGNORED* ME.
BABA WOULD FRONT THE MONEY, AND MY FATHER WOULD BE THE FACE OF *LEGITIMACY*. TITAN OF INDUSTRY. AMBASSADOR.
THE KIND OF RESPECTABLE COVER BABA *NEEDED*.
YES. THEY WERE BUILDING A...*HRM*. A *FACILITY*.
OFF-WORLD.
THROUGH SOME CORRUPT CHANNELS, BABA HAD ACCESS TO WAKANDAN INTERGALACTIC TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE.
WHAT?! TO DO *WHAT*?
SHELTER THE *WICKED*. WHAT'S BETTER THAN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OR OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS FOR ILLEGAL DEALINGS?
OFF-PLANET ACCOUNTS.
AND WHO WAS *USING* IT? TO STORE *WHAT*?
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU IS NOT INFORMATION I GOT...*CONSENSUALLY*. AND THAT MADE MY FATHER *FURIOUS*. SO I STOPPED PRYING.
A WEEK LATER, HE *DISAPPEARED* WITHOUT A *TRACE*.

BACK IN BITI...
ALIINYA. MY DAUGHTER.
YOU ARE... YOU ARE NOT MY FATHER. MY FATHER IS DEAD. NOR DID HE EVER LOOK UPON ME *SOFTLY* IN *LIFE*.
AH. HE *TOLD* ME WHAT A CLEVER GIRL HIS DAUGHTER WAS.
NO, MY LITTLE PLUM. I AM HIS TRUSTED PARTNER. AND *MESSENGER*. HE SPEAKS THROUGH ME.
I AM PROUD OF YOU, ALIINYA. SO PROUD.
AND NOW YOU MUST *FINISH* MY WORK. IT IS *IMPORTANT*.
DESTROYING THE ILONGA FAMILY SYNDICATE?
YES. BUT SOMETHING MUCH *BIGGER*.
THE BLACK PANTHER WHO *KILLED* YOU?
HE WILL DIE AS *WELL*.
BUT I HAVE BIGGER PLANS FOR YOU, MY CHILD. DRESS YOURSELF. LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

I NEED TO GO. URGENT X-MEN BUSINESS.
WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU SHOULD BE *PLENTY.* ALERT ME IF YOU LEARN ANYTHING NEW.
IF YOU BRING MY FATHER BACK, PANTHER...
...I WILL BE IN YOUR *DEBT.*
IT'S RUDE THAT SHE GETS TO DO *THAT* AND WE HAVE TO TAKE THE *TRAIN* BACK.
I *LIKE* THE TRAIN.
A BIT LATER...
YOUR *PRIVATE CAR.*
THANK YOU KINDLY.
MAYBE THERE WILL BE A *MURDER MYSTERY...*
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRACE THE *PAPER TRAIL* OF ST. CROIX'S BUSINESS DEALINGS. FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT HE WAS *DOING.*
INDEED.


THIS IS A WNR WESTERN FALCON TRAIN. NEXT STOP IS T'KIVA HILLS, FOLLOWED BY BIRNIN T'CHAKA. THE DINING CAR IS NOW OPEN. THANK YOU FOR RIDING WAKANDAN NATIONAL RAIL.
SWHOOOOOOSH
WHY DIDN'T YOU--?
WHEN YOU ASKED ME IF SOMEONE I KNEW WAS AMONG BABA NKISU'S DISAPPEARED? I DIDN'T TELL YOU THE TRUTH BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRUST YOU.
YOU TRUSTED MONET ST. CROIX?
SHE'S A TELEPATH. SHE WOULD KNOW ANYWAY. BETTER TO GIVE HER A BREADCRUMB. MAKE HER TRUST US.
AND ANYWAY, YOU'RE NOT ONE TO TALK. YOU HAVE PLENTY OF SECRETS.
WHAT SECRETS? I'M A FUGITIVE, AND YET HERE I AM. I HAVE SHOWN YOU AMPLE TRUST.
BAST KNOWS WHY!

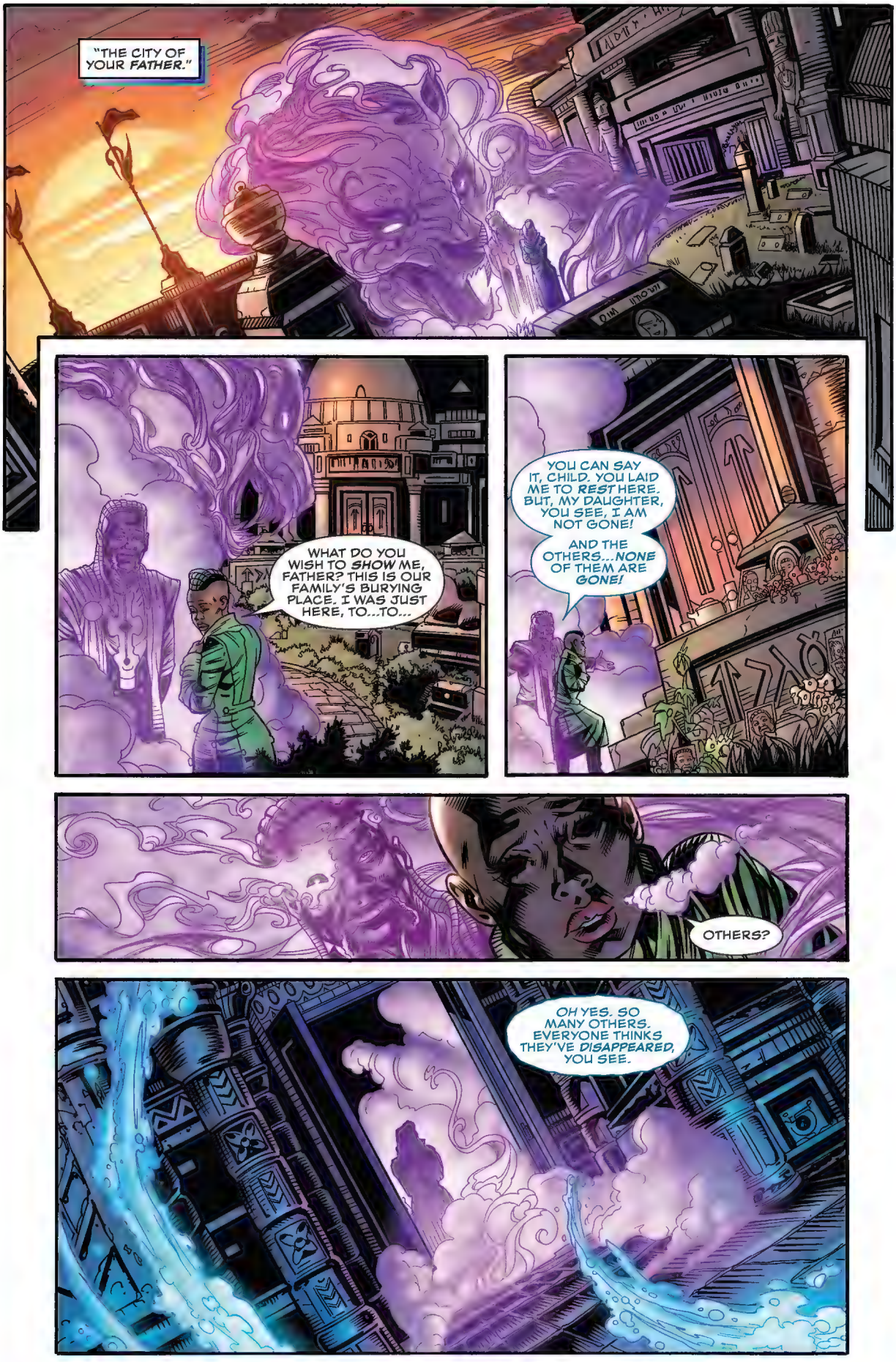
OKAY, FINE. WHY DID YOU COME TO BIRNIN T'CHAKA?
TO LEARN.
THE MOST *LEARNED* MAN IN *WAKANDA!*
AND WHAT HAVE YOU *LEARNED?*
NATIMA, I HAVE LEARNED MORE IN THE CITY OF MY FATHER THAN ANY MORTAL TEACHER COULD *CONVEY.*


"THE ELDERS SAY: 'THE BEAST IN THE BUSH DRAWS MORE BLOOD THAN THE BEAST THAT ROARS.' TO BE A WISE LEADER IS TO LEARN THE CONTOURS OF YOUR OWN IGNORANCE. WE NEED NOT ACCEPT THEM--BUT WE MUST RESPECT THEM.
COMPOUND OF THE ILONGA FAMILY--MORTAL ENEMIES OF THE NKISUS.
I KNOW YOU ARE HESITANT, BROTHER. BUT THE NKISU GIRL, BY ALL REPORTS, HAS NO CONTROL.
SHE IS WILD. UNDISCIPLINED. THIS IS OUR TIME.
BUT THERE WERE THOSE DISAPPEARANCES, KASINDA. WE STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. BUT BABA NKISU WAS CONCENTRATING HIS POWER.
WHAT WAS BEHIND THAT? A DEVICE? A STRATEGY?
YOU'RE SAYING WE STEAL IT. WHATEVER "IT" IS.
I'M SEEING A FEW HOTSPOTS FOR THE MISSING, BOSS. ONE BIG ONE--
--SEVERAL OF THEM PASSED WITHIN THIS SAME THREE-KILOMETER REGION.
GOOD WORK. SO WE SET UP SOME DECOYS THERE. BUT WE CAN'T SPARE ANY MANPOWER RIGHT N--
OW!
NOT A PROBLEM, WORO. WE CAN GET SOMEONE.

"I HAVE LEARNED THAT WAKANDA IS SO MUCH *BIGGER* THAN I EVER UNDERSTOOD. NOT ONLY ITS PLAINS AND ITS VALLEYS--BUT ALSO THE *HEARTS* OF OUR PEOPLE. THEIR CAPACITY TO *HOPE*. TO *HELP*.
AND SO THE *FOURTH* DERIVATIVE...
THAT'S NOT THE WAY MY *TEACHER* DOES IT.
YES, WELL. *MENTAL MATH* IS A GOOD THING TO PRACTICE EVEN IN *TODAY'S* WORLD, ZANEEBA.
N'YOBI!
THE *DEBT COLLECTORS* HAVE *RETURNED!* GO THROUGH THE BACK, QUICKLY!
WELL, GOOD *AFTERNOON!* WELCOME TO FAIZA'S! WHAT CAN I *GET* YOU?

"AND I HAVE SEEN THE FULL ARRAY OF PEOPLE'S HURTS. THEIR RAGE, AND PAIN. PETTY INDIFFERENCE. GREED. THE WILLINGNESS OF A FEW TO INFLICT HARM ON THE MANY."
HELLO, STRANGER.
UNH!
CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU ON YOUR NEW EMPLOYMENT. YOU'LL BE HELPING THE ILLUSTRIOUS ILONGA FAMILY WITH A VERY SPECIAL PROJECT.

I HAVE LEARNED TO BE MORE *HUMBLE* THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.
PARADOXICALLY, I FEEL *STRONGER* THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.
WITHOUT YOUR *CROWN?* YOUR POWER? YOUR ELITE TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONS? THE PROTECTION OF YOUR FAMILY?
THAT'S JUST IT, NATIMA.
I THOUGHT THOSE THINGS DEFINED *WHAT* I WAS. *WHO* I WAS.
HAD YOU MET ME AND ASKED ME, "*WHO ARE YOU?*" I WOULD HAVE SAID...
"*I AM THE KING OF A GREAT NATION.*"
AND NOW? WHO ARE YOU?
I AM *T'CHALLA.* AND I AM SO MUCH *MORE* THAN MY *THRONE.*
NOW ARRIVING AT BIRNIN T'CHAKA.
WE'VE ARRIVED, MY FRIEND...


"THE CITY OF YOUR FATHER."
WHAT DO YOU WISH TO SHOW ME, FATHER? THIS IS OUR FAMILY'S BURYING PLACE. I WAS JUST HERE, TO...TO...
YOU CAN SAY IT, CHILD. YOU LAID ME TO REST HERE. BUT, MY DAUGHTER, YOU SEE, I AM NOT GONE!
AND THE OTHERS...NONE OF THEM ARE GONE!
OTHERS?
OH YES. SO MANY OTHERS. EVERYONE THINKS THEY'VE DISAPPEARED, YOU SEE.

NO ONE EVER *LEAVES* US, MY DEAR ONE.
THEY ARE ONLY *TRAVELING.*
NEXT: AD ASTRA!

MAP OF WAKANDA

BY **ADAM SIMPSON**, AS PRESENTED IN **DK's MARVEL UNIVERSE: MAP BY MAP** (2021).

BIRNIN T'CHAKA AS IMAGINED BY EVE L. EWING AND CHRIS ALLEN:

Far from the Golden City, distant from the seat of power, at the foot of the mountainous Jabari-Lands, is the city of Birnin T'Chaka. No one is poor in Wakanda. This is a country that provides for the basic needs of all its people. Everyone has housing and food--the essentials. But in Birnin T'Chaka, some people have only those essentials. Nothing of flash, nothing too special or fancy. Some of this is by necessity--folks just getting by--and some of it is cultural. We're in the rust belt of Wakanda, a city built meters deep into the infrastructure of its now-abandoned mines. People in Biti (Biti is what locals call Birnin T'Chaka, as in "B.T.") pride themselves on choosing substance over style. Of course, as with all things, this morphs into being its own kind of style.

BITI BANTER

OH NO, THEY GOT N'YOBI! It's me again, assistant editor Michelle Marchese, Protector of N'Yobi. Before I go on a diatribe about how terrifying Kivu'Ma is in this issue—let's just say that for those of us who are very, very afraid of Kivu'Ma AND very, very distressed for N'Yobi, next issue is gonna be a real nail-biter!—we should get straight into it, so here's Eve L. Ewing with a few of your letters!

I have been reading about T'Challa since he was introduced, and I still have every BLACK PANTHER issue. I am extremely grateful with the direction that Dr. Ewing has taken this character. For whatever reason, he has not been given the respect he deserves. He is a peer intellectually with Reed Richards, yet he is NEVER mentioned as one of the smartest in the Marvel Universe. Thank you for your tireless efforts. I especially enjoyed seeing Tilda Johnson as well as Deathlok. I would like to see them stick around.

If I may offer a suggestion...Elias Wirtham, also known as Cardiac, has vibranium-mesh skin, and to my knowledge, that has never been explained. It would be nice to see how he came about having it and how T'Challa found out or helped facilitate it. Just a thought.

Raymond Smith

Hello, Mr. Smith! (I feel like you're owed the title since you addressed me so politely.) Sounds like you have an impressive collection—next time, you have to send us a picture. I definitely agree with you about T'Challa being an intellectual powerhouse, both in terms of being formally very learned and also impressive in his thoughtfulness and deductive reasoning. So I'm glad this version of the character resonates with you, as well as the reappearance of some classic characters. As for Dr. Wirtham, you're making an interesting point, especially because he has a checkered history with the moral complications of for-profit science. I wonder if someone, for instance, could have stolen his metal-mesh skin technology (which sounds super painful, by the way) for attempted commercial use...? Lots to think about. Thanks for writing.

Dear Marvel,

I am a YouTube content provider and longtime Black Panther fan. Not since Priest's run on Black Panther have I seen a more respectful look on T'Challa. Eve L. Ewing's run has been phenomenal so far. Thanks, Ms. Eve. ♥ We at the Black Panther Fan Group appreciate your hard work and attention to detail.

Respectfully,
D-Real

And I appreciate you, Black Panther Fan Group! Being compared to Priest is high praise. Much love to y'all, and thanks for reading.

Hello! I would like to start this letter by saying that I love what Eve L. Ewing is doing with Black Panther in this current run. She is doing a great job. I'm hoping to see more content with T'Challa as the Black Panther. My question to you, Eve, is:

If given the opportunity, would you write a narrative/story for a Black Panther video game with the main playable character as T'Challa? I strongly believe T'Challa is in need of his own video game where he is front and center. I would even go so far as to say it's long overdue.

Aaron Khan

Hiya, Aaron! Thanks for the kind words, which are much appreciated. As you may have seen, there are plans for an upcoming Black Panther game from EA. I'm not involved in it, but I know some of the people who have weighed in on the storyline. From a fan perspective, I would love to play a Black Panther game. Not to date this letter, but as of this writing, I'm about to dig into the new Spider-Man 2 game, and I'm excited because the previous game (as well as the Miles Morales DLC) pushed the field forward so dramatically on making games with great narratives at the center where you really feel like you are the character. So hopefully, you and I will both have a lot of fun with the Black Panther game when it's out! Take care.

Dear Eve,

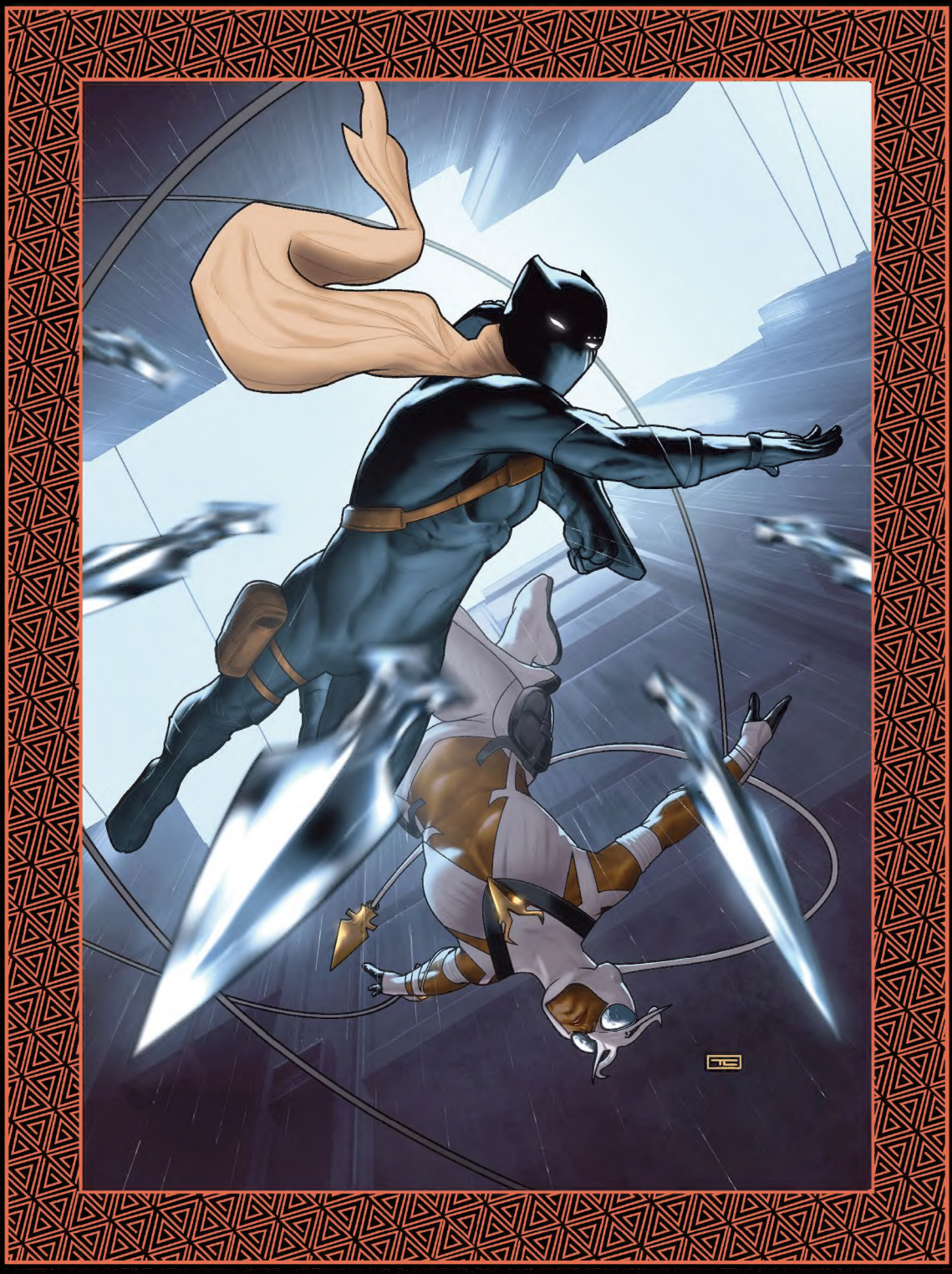
I wanted to send you an email and say a big, big thank you for taking time out of what I am sure is a very busy schedule and reading and responding to my letter in BLACK PANTHER #4! It was such a very nice surprise to see, and please keep up the fantastic work that you are doing with this series.

Best wishes,
Chris Osman
Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Appreciate it, Chris! I am lucky enough to have a full schedule, but one of the blessings of my life is that this is part of the job. As one of my professors used to say, "it beats working for a living."

That's all the space we have, so check back in on next month's letter column to see if your letter has been answered by Eve! And for those of you who haven't written in yet, we want to hear from you! Drop us a line at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT"!

NEXT ISSUE:



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